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REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement Office Action of July 24, 2006 identified four separate species that are allegedly not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Particularly, the following four species were identified: Species A comprising claims 1-8 and 56; Species B comprising claims 9-16 and 57; Species C comprising claims 17-25 and 58; and Species D comprising claims 50-53 and 59.

The Applicant accordingly elects, without traverse, claims 17-25 and 58 of Species C for examination in the present application. The remaining claims have therefore been withdrawn.

In addition, the Applicant has amended the claims for clarity. The term "functional resistor" has been replaced throughout the claims by "thermally-trimmable resistor". Claim 17 has been amended by introducing the following: "by dissipating more power at the edges of a heat-targeted region where there is greater heat loss". The problem addressed in claim 17 is described on page 24, lines 6-14: "As alluded to above, the trimming behavior at temperatures above the trimming threshold may be a complex and sensitive function of T . Thus, for accurate control of trimming in the functional resistor, it is important for the entire functional resistive element being trimmed to be maintained at the same (and controllable) temperature. Thus the spatial T profile, $T(x)$ in the heat-targeted region, should be constant. However, since the heat-targeted element, even in steady state, is intended to be at a higher T than its surroundings, the boundaries of the heat-targeted region will tend to be at a temperature lower than the T at the center." The solution is described in a general manner at lines 14-16 of page 24: "In order to compensate for this, figures 12a, 12b, and 12c show examples of layouts intended to dissipate more power at the edges of the heat-targeted region". Therefore, the amendment is fully supported by the description as originally filed and no new subject matter has been added.

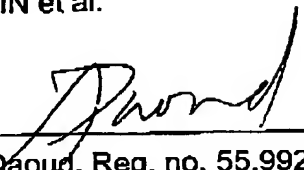
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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